

Silvio O. Conte

National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in New Hampshire Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Judd Gregg (R)
Senator John E. Sununu (R)
Rep. Charles F. Bass (R-2nd)

Contact

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Profile

Established:	1997
Current acres:	27,391
Connecticut	0
Massachusetts	186
New Hampshire	617
Vermont	26,534
Proposed acres:	93,395
Connecticut	28,330
Massachusetts	16,260
New Hampshire	7,945
Vermont	40,860
Staff:	9
FY 2002 budget:	\$795,000
2002 volunteer hours:	1,920
2002 visitation:	145,800

Purpose

The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge was established to protect the abundance and diversity of native species throughout the 7.2 million-acre Connecticut River watershed. This is accomplished through land acquisition and by providing technical and financial support to partners for improved habitat management and environmental education projects.

Public Use Notes

- Partner in new visitor centers at Colebrook and Montshire Museum

Management Activities

- Work with many public and private partners to protect rare species, native plants and animals, and important habitats
- Provide leadership to partners throughout New England to encourage the control of invasive species
- Develop cooperative visitor centers to educate the public about wildlife resources and issues within the watershed

Highlights

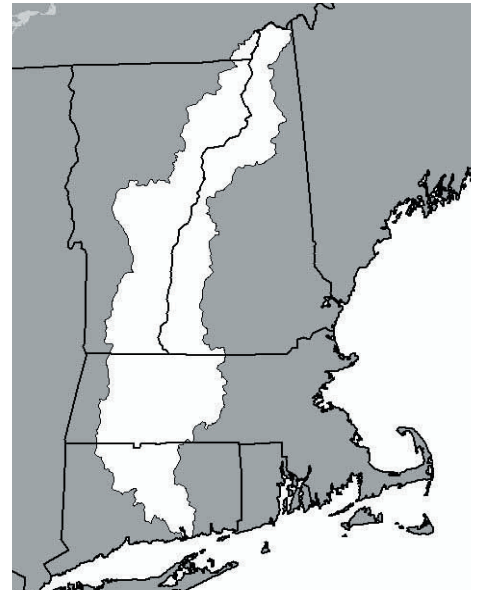
From 1996 to 2001, the refuge helped New Hampshire citizens by competitively awarding 26 challenge cost-share projects to support grassroots efforts to restore habitats and provide environmental education.

The refuge supported an analysis of migratory bird stop-over habitat in the watershed. The results will help guide future bird conservation priorities.

The refuge acquired 670 acres of prime wildlife habitat in northern New Hampshire from Hancock Timber Resources Group. The land, joining the two ponds of New Hampshire Audubon's Pondicherry Refuge, helps protect some of the state's most diverse bird nesting habitat and has been designated as the first Important Bird Area in New Hampshire.

Issues

The extensive spread of exotic invasive species threatens the integrity of native habitats.



The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

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